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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

O God, our Father, this is a new day. Banish all the gloom and darkness of worry and fear. Set us free to praise and worship You in joy and gladness. May we neither gloat over yesterday's successes nor be grim over yesterday's defeats. Help us make a fresh start and give ourselves fully to the challenges and opportunities of this day.

Grant us a vibrant enthusiasm so that we can accept each responsibility with delight and care for each person with affirmation. We know that life is an accumulation of days lived fully for Your glory or wasted on anxious care. Fill our minds with Your spirit so that we can think creatively; transform our attitudes so we can reflect Your patience and peace; brighten our countenance so that we will radiate Your joy; infuse strengths into our bodies so that we will have resiliency for the pressures of whatever the day will bring.

We look ahead to the decisions we will have to make today, and our deepest longing is that we will not miss Your best for us or our Nation. We dedicate this day to trust You all the way. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3756, the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill. I understand there are two pending amendments, and I hope we may dispose of those amendments in short order and continue to make progress on the bill.

It is my intention to complete action on the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill this evening. That will certainly take cooperation—it always does—across the aisles. We need to help the managers by coming on over and offering amendments. Amendments are, in fact, needed so that we can be able to complete action at a reasonable hour tonight so we can then go tomorrow to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

If we do not get the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill completed this evening, then I am going to have to weigh exactly what we do with regard to the Chemical Weapons Convention. We made a commitment to do that. I intend to do that, but in order to do that, we are going to have to get this bill done. We are going to have to have some cooperation with that.

In accordance with the consent agreement reached on June 28, I do anticipate beginning the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 12, which is the Chemical Weapons Convention. We hope to be able to complete that in 1 day, instead of going all day tomorrow and going over until Friday. Again, with cooperation of the Members, we would like to see if we can complete that tomorrow, because we do have a Jewish holiday on Friday. We will not have any votes after 12 o'clock for sure, but if we could complete work on the CWC by tomorrow night, then Members will have more time to get to their homes to celebrate this special date for our Jewish Members.

We will probably have a 1-hour closed session at the end of the debate on the

Chemical Weapons Convention, because it appears that some of the information Senators really need to have will not be declassified. If it is not declassified by noon tomorrow, we will give Members, I believe 4 hours notice is required under the rules. We will convene in the Old Senate Chamber, and then we will go to votes right after that.

Again, I urge all Senators to come to the floor if they have amendments. The smart thing to do would be to not offer a lot more amendments. Let's just go ahead and pass the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill and be done with it. Would that be all right with the chairman?

Mr. SHELBY. That will be fine.

Mr. LOTT. So go to third reading as soon as you can.

Mr. SHELBY. In 5 minutes.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3756, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3756) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Wyden/Kennedy amendment No. 5206 (to committee amendment beginning on page 16, line 16, through page 17, line 2) to prohibit the restriction of certain types of medical communications between a health care provider and a patient.

Dorgan amendment No. 5223 (to committee amendment beginning on page 16, line 16, through page 17, line 2) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end deferral for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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